

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 11-46 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is independent. In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner maintained her rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Matsuyama* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/007733); claims 1-3 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kiguchi* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0210361); and claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Matsuyama* in view of *Nishida* (USP 6,864,034). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102 – *Matsuyama*

In Applicants' Reply filed November 28, 2005, Applicants argued that *Matsuyama* fails to teach or suggest a method of manufacturing a composite film, the first film having a plurality of partition sections extending generally along one direction, the first film comprising at least one gap width regulating section by which a width of the gap region is narrowed in one direction. In response to this argument, the Examiner asserts that the claims as written have no such limitations and requires only that partition section extend generally along one direction. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to claim 1, lines 6-8 reciting "...apply a second film material in the gap region by an ink-jet method by traversing an ink jet with respect to the substrate generally along one direction in which the partition sections are extended..." and claim 1, lines 10-11 which recite "...the first film comprising at least one gap width regulating section..."

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 clearly recites the claim elements as argued in Applicants' Reply filed November 28, 2005. As the Examiner has failed to properly consider these arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the finality of the outstanding Official Action withdrawn and that the Examiner properly consider these arguments.

As previously argued, the Examiner asserts that *Matsuyama* discloses a tapered partition. However, Applicants maintain that this assertion is insufficient to teach or suggest narrowing a gap region as claimed. The Examiner directs Applicants attention to Figs. 11A-11E of the specification and notes that these figures are identical to Figs. 11A-12D of *Matsuyama*. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of *Matsuyama*.

The figures cited by the Examiner do not show the at least gap width regulating section as claimed. The Examiner relies on the tapered portion of the partitioned sections to teach the gap width regulating section. In other words, the Examiner appears to rely on the partition section of *Matsuyama* to teach both the partition section and the gap width regulating section.. Applicants maintain that this interpretation is wholly improper. The claim clearly recites having partition sections and width regulating sections. The Examiner's reliance solely on the tapered partition to teach both of these claim elements is improper. As *Matsuyama* fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements Applicants respectfully submit that *Matsuyama* fails to anticipate the present invention. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is further respectfully submitted that in support of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9, the Examiner characterizes *Matsuyama* without clearly identifying what elements of *Matsuyama* the Examiner is relying upon to anticipate each of the claim elements recited in each of claims 1-9. Even with regard to the independent claim, the Examiner has failed to consider all of the elements as recited in the claim. Should the Examiner maintain her rejection of the claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner properly consider all of the claims and further identify what elements she is relying upon to anticipate the claimed elements by properly asserting *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 so that Applicants may have a proper opportunity to respond. Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner do so by withdrawing the finality of the outstanding Official Action as the outstanding Official Action fails to consider all of the claims.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-10 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102 – *Kiguchi*

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner again relies on the tapered portion of *Kiguchi* to anticipate the gap width regulating section and, Applicants assume, the partitions. However, for the reasons noted above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's reliance solely on the tapered portion of *Kiguchi* to teach both the partitions and the gap width regulating section is improper in establishing anticipation. It appears from the outstanding rejection that Examiner has failed to consider all of the elements as recited in claim 1, i.e., the partition section and the gap width regulating section. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner properly consider all of the elements as recited in the claims and provide Applicants with a detailed explanation as to how *Kiguchi* anticipates the claims by withdrawing the finality of the outstanding Official Action, and if appropriate, properly asserting *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is further respectfully submitted that the Examiner rejected claims 2-3 and 6-10 asserting these claims are anticipated by *Kiguchi*. However, the Examiner has failed to address any of the elements as recited in these claims. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner properly consider all of the elements as recited in the claims and if appropriate, properly asserting *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 so that Applicants may have a proper opportunity to respond to the purported rejections.

Additional Comments

This Reply After Final is being filed concurrently with a Request for Applicant Interview. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule and conduct a telephonic interview before formerly considering these arguments on the record.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No.

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Amendment dated June 2, 2006
After Final Office Action of February 2, 2006

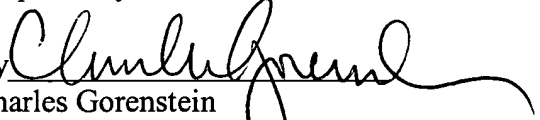
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52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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